



**County of McHenry
County Administration**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emergency Operations Center Training Invaluable in Organizational Response to Disasters

WOODSTOCK, IL – In March, 83 representatives from McHenry County Government and partner jurisdictions will be attending an intensive community-based, four-day emergency management training course in Emmitsburg, Maryland. McHenry County was awarded through a competitive grant process, the opportunity to receive training for its emergency operation center. This training will present a series of disaster simulations for participants to work together in a collaborative and coordinated fashion. The simulation based training has been tailored to the hazards and threats prevalent in the County. Drills include: table top and functional exercises which will test the team's ability to respond to and recover from various disaster scenarios.

McHenry County participants will be experiencing the "real time" scenarios that are potential dangers to residents. This course is specifically designed by the Integrated Emergency Management (IEM) Branch of the National Emergency Training Center and customized to McHenry County with photographic and local data. The information was vetted through leaders in the field of disaster response at FEMA to ensure realistic conditions.

"This training will be beneficial to those involved", stated McHenry County Emergency Management Agency Director David Christensen, "the tactical level of our exercise is practiced and executed all the time. This unique opportunity will allow the strategic component of disaster coordination to be fully vetted. Our emergency management on a county-wide basis is rarely practiced."

Finally, the training that the participants will be receiving is at a minimum cost to the local resident with the federal government covering the cost of housing and travel to the Emergency Management Institute. Participants will return from this training with a better understanding of how each organization functions and how they can work together to serve the residents. Throughout the training, County and municipal officials will evaluate if its existing strategic disaster plans meet the needs and expectations of the residents. For more information, please contact Adam Lehmann at 815-334-0309.

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"McHenry County government is dedicated to providing the highest quality services for the health, safety, and welfare of the County's residents and communities. We foster representative and transparent government to ensure social, economic and environmental justice."